

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) [Method] A method for equalizing temperature differences in molten glass in at least one temperature equalization zone that is in the form of side walls, a bottom wall, and a roof that define a channel [(1) intended] to transport a glass melt, [said] wherein the equalization zone [being] is located upstream from a tap-off point [(2)] at which the glass is tapped into a [mould] mold in a forming machine or the like, [characterized in that] said method comprising the steps of: providing resistor heating elements [(16-19; 18, 19; 24-29) are provided] in each of the temperature equalization zone side walls [(12, 13)], bottom [(14)] wall, and roof [(15), and in that] , measuring the temperatures of [the] surfaces of the respective side walls, bottom wall, and roof that are contacted by the resistor heating elements [are caused to be measured, and in that the said] , and controlling the resistor heating elements [are caused to be controlled] by an electric controller [(31-34)] so that the temperatures of said wall surfaces are [caused to be equal to or largely] substantially equal to a predetermined tapping temperature of the glass melt.

2. (Amended) [Method] A method in accordance with claim 1, [characterized in that] including the step of spacing the resistor heating elements [(16-19; 18, 19; 24-29) are spaced] at substantially regular intervals along the temperature equalization zone.

3. (Amended) [Method] A method in accordance with claim 1 [or 2, characterized in

that] , including the step of treating the temperatures of the surfaces of the respective side walls [(12, 13)], bottom [(14)] wall, and roof [(15)] that are in contact with the resistor heating elements [(16-19; 18, 19, 24-29) are caused to be measured] as the temperatures of the respective resistor heating elements.

4. (Amended) [Method as in] A method in accordance with claim 1, [2 or 3 characterized in that] including the step of forming the channel walls from a ceramic material, wherein the resistor heating elements [(16-19) comprise] include spiral elements [mounted] carried in ceramic tubes [at the] mounted on an outer surface of the ceramic material that [comprises] forms said channel walls.

5. (Amended) [Method] A method in accordance with claim 1, [2 or 3 characterized in that] including the step of forming the channel walls from a ceramic material, wherein the resistor heating elements [(18, 19; 24-29) comprise] include band-shaped resistor heating elements [which are] mounted [at the] on an outer surface of the ceramic material [(3)] that [comprises] forms said channel [(1)] walls.

6. (Amended) [Method] A method in accordance with [any of the previous claims characterized in that] claim 1, including the step of forming the temperature equalization zone [is caused] to have a length corresponding to at least 1-2 times the width of said channel [(1)].

7. (Amended) [Equipment] Apparatus for equalizing temperature differences in molten

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glass in at least one temperature equalization zone that is in the form of a channel [(1) intended] to transport a glass melt, [said] wherein the equalization zone [being] is located upstream from a tap-off point [(2)] at which the glass melt is tapped into a [mould] mold in a forming machine or the like, [characterized in that] said apparatus comprising: a plurality of resistor heating elements [(16-19; 18, 19; 24-29) are provided] disposed in the temperature equalization zone side walls [(12, 13)], bottom [(14)] wall, and roof [(15)], [and in that] thermocouples [(20-23) are] provided [to measure the temperatures at] on the surfaces of the respective side walls [(12, 13)], bottom [(14)] wall, and roof [(15)] that are in contact with said resistor heating elements for measuring channel surface temperatures, and [in that] an electric controller [(31-34) is provided to control] for controlling said resistor heating elements so that the temperatures of said surfaces are [caused to be equal or largely] substantially equal to a predetermined tapping temperature of the glass melt.

8. (Amended) [Equipment] Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 [characterized in that] , wherein the resistor heating elements [(16-19; 18, 19; 24-29)] are spaced at substantially regular intervals along the temperature equalization zone.

9. (Amended) [Equipment] Apparatus in accordance with claim 7 [or 8 characterized in that] , wherein the channel walls are formed from a ceramic material, and wherein the resistor heating elements [(16-19) comprise] include spiral elements [which are mounted] carried in ceramic tubes [at the] mounted on an outer surface of the ceramic material [(3)] that [comprises] forms said channel [(1)] walls.